

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DEAE-00 IO-14 JUSE-00 SNM-02

SY-10 TRSE-00 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 L-03 /121 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN/CR:JGSULLIVAN:SLC

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

UNCLAS STATE 233497

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, PINT, SNAR, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO DENIAL OF DRUG INVOLVEMENT

NOV. 28 WASHINGTON POST CARRIED FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY  
PHILLIP GREER ENTITLED "VESCO DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN  
DRUG PLAN"

BEGIN QUOTE:

ROBERT L. VESCO TODAY HEATEDLY DENIED THAT HE PLANNED TO  
FINANCE A SCHEME TO SMUGGLE HEROIN INTO THE UNITED  
STATES. VESCO, IN THE BAHAMAS FIGHTING EXTRADITION TO  
FACE CRIMINAL CHARGES, ISSUED HIS STATEMENT THROUGH A  
NASSAU PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM.

REPORTS PUBLISHED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON  
POST QUOTED FRANK PEROFF, A FORMER UNDERCOVER AGENT, AS  
CLAIMING THAT AN INVESTIGATION INTO PLANS TO SMUGGLE  
HEROIN WORTH \$300,000 INTO THE UNITED STATES WAS CALLED  
OFF WHEN VESCO WAS REPORTED TO BE THE BACKER.

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THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY DENIED THAT IT SOUGHT TO LIMIT THE

INVESTIGATION. DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY GERALD L. WARREN SAID, "I CAN STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT THERE WAS NO WHITE HOUSE KNOWLEDGE OF OR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ALLEGATION AND IMPLICATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS STORY."

VESCO WAS INDICTED LAST MAY ALONG WITH FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN N. MITCHELL, FORMER COMMERCE SECRETARY MAURICE H. STANS AND NEW JERSEY REPUBLICAN LEADER HARRY L. SEARS ON CHARGED OF ATTEMPTING TO OBSTRUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO VESCO'S AFFAIRS IN RETURN FOR A SECRET CONTRIBUTION TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

IN JULY, VESCO WAS SECRETLY INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES THAT HE DEFRAUDED A COMPANY HE ONCE CONTROLLED OF \$50,000.

IN A STATEMENT, VESCO DENIED "WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION OR RESERVATION" THAT HE OR ANY OF HIS AIDES HAVE EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN HEROIN TRAFFIC. HE DENIED KNOWING PEROFF OR CONRAD BOUCHARD, WHO THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS IDENTIFIED AS A MEMBER OF THE SMUGGLING RING.

END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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